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LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Recalling the Council's presidential statement of 28 October 1993 (S/26661) and the Council's request that the Secretary-General "submit as soon as possible a complete report on the responsibility for these acts [in Stupni Do]", I wish to draw your attention to equally disturbing violations of international humanitarian law by extremist Bosnian Muslim elements that have yet to be investigated by the Special Rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia or considered by the Council.

There is compelling evidence that extremist Bosnian Muslim elements may have committed 6 massacres of Bosnian Croat civilians over the past five months: 15 civilians were burned on top of "Soko" factory in Mostar on 15 July; 37 civilians were massacred in Doljani (Jablanica) on 27 July, where 190 civilians were taken prisoner and their whereabouts are still unknown; 43 civilians were massacred in Kiseljak (Zepce) on 16 August; 29 civilians were massacred in Uzdol (Prozor) on 14 September; 25 civilians were massacred in Grabavica (Mostar) on 25 September, and an unknown number of civilians were massacred in Kopijari (Vares) on 21 October. Furthermore, we have numerous reports of summary executions of both civilians and prisoners-of-war by extremist Bosnian Muslim elements, most recently, the summary execution of 19 soldiers in Bugojno on 1 November. Evidence on some of these incidents has already been submitted to the Council in documents S/26378 and S/26617.

I am compelled to bring this to the Council's attention as it is the belief of my Government that the parties to the conflict in central Bosnia may not be being held to the same standards. It is the view of my Government that international humanitarian law cannot be compromised by political or media pressure. Stupni Do and Ahmici are deplorable crimes that cannot be condoned, and the Council was rightful in expressing its condemnation and calling for a report in this regard.

We respectfully ask the Council and the Special Rapporteur, however, not to, in any case, condone the violations of international humanitarian law when they are committed against the Bosnian Croat civilians and prisoners-of-war. We believe that deep respect for international humanitarian law reaches beyond the Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict and should be addressed in this way.

May I request your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ambassador Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative